

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION GENEVA

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KINSHASA PLEASE PASS CODEL DIGGS; CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, MZ, RH
SUBJECT: CODEL DIGGS VISIT TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMP

REF: 77 MAPUTO 1092

1. SUMMARY: CODEL DIGGS PAID BRIEF VISIT TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMP AT DOROI, MOZAMBIQUE, MARCH 25. REFUGEES REMAIN BADLY IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL AID, ESPECIALLY HEALTH SERVICES, FOOD AND CLOTHING. FLOODS HAVE INTERRUPTED SUPPLY SYSTEM. REFUGEES ARE STRIVING FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION, BUT HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DIGGS, STAFF AIDE HERSCHELLE CHALLENGER, STATE ESCORTS GIVSON LANPHER AND RICHARD BALTIMORE AND EMBASSY E/C OFFICER JIMMY KOLKER VISITED DOROI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT,
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50 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF CHIMOIO. DOROI IS THE LARGEST OF FOUR CAMPS MAINTAINED FOR ZIMBABWEANS BY THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES.

3. CODEL WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FRANCISCO KUFA OF THE GPRM REFUGEE SUPPORT DIRECTORATE, CARLOS NKAVANDAME, BEIRA REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIRECTORATE, AND MR. LIMA, THE MOZAMBICAN SUPERVISOR OF

THE CAMP. BECAUSE OF THE TIME CONSTRAINT AND SEVEN HOURS OF OVERLAND TRAVEL REQUIRED FROM BEIRA, CODEL SPENT ONLY 40 MINUTES IN THE REFUGEE CAMP. CAMP IS SPACIOUS AND RELATIVELY CLEAN, BUT FACILITIES ARE INADEQUATE. LITTLE CHANGE WAS APPARENT FROM DCM DESCRIPTION OF VISIT WITH AMBASSADOR CLARK REFUGEE SURVEY TEAM IN SEPTEMBER (REFTEL).

4. DOROI NOW HAS 24,000 RESIDENTS IN SIX VILLAGES. CODEL VISITED ONE OF THE VILLAGES, TOURED SCHOOL, COOKING FACILITIES AND FOOD WAREHOUSES AND SAW RESIDENTIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND HEALTH AREAS. THE SETTLEMENT IS WELL-ORGANIZED WITH BRIGADES HANDLING COOKING, CLEANING, FARMING, CONSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION. THERE ARE SEVEN MOZAMBICAN ADMINISTRATORS AND NUMEROUS ZIMBABWEAN COUNTERPARTS. SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS THE GOAL BUT THERE ARE SHORTAGES OF NEARLY ALL NECESSITIES.

5. CODEL WAS TOLD THAT DURING THE CURRENT RAINY SEASON, MALARIA IS WIDESPREAD. MANY CHILDREN HAD OPEN SORES ON THEIR BODIES. THERE WAS A WAITING LINE OUTSIDE THE HEALTH CLINIC -- THE ONLY ALL-WEATHER BUILDING WE SAW. FEW OF THE PEOPLE WERE WELL CLOTHED. SOME WERE IN VIRTUAL RAGS. IN SPITE OF MUDDY CONDITIONS MOST PEOPLE WERE BAREFOOT. THOSE SHOES CODEL SAW WERE OLD AND DILAPIDATED. THOSE ZIMBABWEANS CODEL TALKED TO WERE SHONAS FROM THE UMTALI AREA. THERE WERE NO VISIBLE SIGNS OF MALNUTRITION, BUT MANY PEOPLE APPEARED LISTLESS. CODEL SAW NO VERY OLD PEOPLE AND NO INFANTS.

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6. SCHOOLING: THE DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL SAID THAT THERE ARE 4000 CHILDREN IN SCHOOL, PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH FROM FOUR. THERE ARE 132 ZIMBABWEAN TEACHERS WORKING IN THE CAMP, AND MAKESHIFT CLASSROOMS MADE FROM LOCAL MATERIALS WERE EQUIPPED WITH BENCHES, HOMEMADE BLACKBOARDS AND NOT MUCH ELSE. THERE ARE A HANDFUL OF TEXT BOOKS AND SCHOOL MATERIALS, BUT NOT NEARLY ENOUGH.

7. FOOD: THE UNHCR TOLD US THAT NINE TONS OF FOOD MUST BE TRUCKED IN DAILY TO DOROI. THERE IS NO ALL-WEATHER STORAGE FACILITY IN THE CAMP, AND IN THE PAST FOOD STORED OVERNIGHT HAS BEEN STOLEN BY HUNGRY RESIDENTS. MAIN DIET IS MAIZE MEAL AND GREENS. FOOD IS COOKED IN 50-GALLON GASOLINE DRUMS. SINCE THE REFUGEE TEAM VISITED IN SEPTEMBER, 1977, THE NUMBER OF DAILY MEALS HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM ONE TO TWO. HOWEVER, THE FLOODS HAVE INTERRUPTED BOTH THE SUPPLY OF FOOD AND ITS DELIVERY TO DOROI, SO DURING THE PAST WEEK, FOOD HAS BEEN INSUFFICIENT. THE REFUGEES HAVE MAIZE UNDER CULTIVATION ON 600 HECTRES OF LAND. CODEL ALSO OBSERVED PEOPLE EXTRACTING SUGAR FROM SUGAR CANE.

8. NEARLY EVERY OFFICIAL CODEL MET THANKED THE U.S. FOR THE PL-480 RICE, OIL AND MILK WHICH HAD BEEN SENT TO AID THE REFUGEES. ABOUT

50 BAGS OF AMERICAN POWDERED MILK WERE IN AN OTHERWISE-EMPTY FOOD WAREHOUSE. OFFICIALS SAID SUPPLIES OF THE OTHER COMMODITIES HAVE LONG BEEN EXHAUSTED, AND WERE VERY PLEASED WHEN THEY HEARD THAT MORE RICE WOULD ARRIVE AT BEIRA IN EARLY APRIL.

9. SECURITY: MANY OF THE PEOPLE CODEL SAW AND TALKED TO IN THE CAMP WERE AT OR NEAR MILITARY AGE. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY MILITARY ACTIVITY, PREPARATION OR TRAINING IN THE CAMP. THE MAIN ENTRANCE IS GUARDED BY ONE ARMED FRELIMO SOLDIER, AND SECURITY MEASURES WERE NON-EXISTANT. REFUGEES CAN ENTER AND LEAVE THE CAMP IF THEY WISH, BUT IT IS FAR FROM ANY TOWN. THE ADMINISTRATOR SAID THAT MANY REFUGEES ARE SCARED FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY AND FEW LEAVE THE CAMP.

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10. THIS CABLE WAS NOT CLEARED WITH CODEL DIGGS.
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Message Attributes

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